



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER OF  
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

*Handwritten signature/initials*

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**MAILED**

**OCT 13 1999**

Office of the Director  
Group 3600

In re application of  
Athens et al.  
Serial No.: 09/295,022  
Filed: April 20, 1999  
For: SOIL AND GROUNDWATER  
DECONTAMINATION AND  
METHOD FOR  
DECONTAMINATION OF SOIL AND  
GROUNDWATER BY REACTION  
AND EXTRACTION

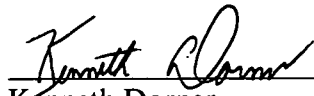
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: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL  
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This is in response to the applicant's PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROGRAM 37 CFR 1.102(c) and MPEP § 708.02 V, which was filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 1999. Since the requirements of MPEP § 708.02 V have been met, the petition will be GRANTED.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The Petition is GRANTED to the extent indicated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth Dorner", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth Dorner  
Special Program Examiner  
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DJB:djb